

Ser. No. 10/737,053
Art Unit 3746

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Remarks

The rejection of claims 1-3, 6-8, 10 and 11 as anticipated by Sieck is now moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1-11.

The Examiner's comments regarding the driving fluid being the combustion product is noted. Claim 14 has been amended to state that the driving fluid is compressed and heated. As stated in the specification at page 7, lines 8 - 17, it is preferred that the driving fluid also serves as the fuel for the combustor as well as the fluid for powering the expander. In this case the driving fluid will indeed include the products of combustion. However, a non-combustible fluid can also serve as the driving fluid so long as it is heated in the combustor to an operating temperature, such as between about 1800° F. to about 2600° F. Air is preferred, as it is readily available, easily compressed and contains oxygen to support combustion when combined with a suitable combustible fuel.

The allowance of claims 12, 13, 15 and 16 is noted with appreciation.

Newly submitted independent claim 18 contains the elements of claims 4 and 5 that were found by the Examiner to contain allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form and is therefor deemed to be allowable. The reference to "at least one combustor" in claim 18 is supported in the specification at page 3, line 19.

New claim 19, which depends from claim 18, claims an embodiment of the invention in which four combustors are employed. This claim contains the limitations of claim 9 and is deemed allowable as depending from an allowable claim.

Takahashi and Palmer have been reviewed and are deemed to be no more relevant than Sieck.

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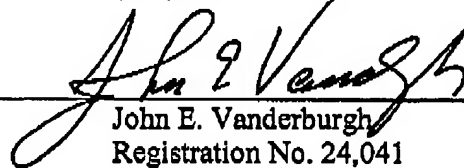
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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks it is submitted that the Examiners objections to the claim have been traversed and the rejection mooted in view of the cancellation of the rejected claims. Accordingly it is respectfully requested that a notice of allowance be issued in this case.

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Respectfully Submitted,
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